

CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (cancel)

a 19. (new) A pneumatic tire having a circumferentially extending tread pattern with at least first and second circumferentially extending ribs, each rib being located on an opposite side of a mid-circumferential plane of said tire:

each rib containing a plurality of symmetrical tread blocks separated by laterally extending grooves;

certain of the tread blocks in each of said ribs having leading and trailing end walls symmetrical with respect to a radial plane which passes through a midpoint of said tread block and through an axis of rotation of the tire;

at least one angled sipe formed in each of said certain tread blocks;

the sipes in the first rib being slanted at an angle of between 2° and 15° with respect to said radial plane; and

the sipes in the second rib being slanted at an angle with respect to said radial plane in a substantially equal but opposite direction to the angle of slant of the sipes in the tread blocks in the first rib to compensate for residual aligning torque.

20. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the angle of the sipes in the first and second ribs is 7° .

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21. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes have a depth of between 20% and 100% of the height of the tread blocks.

22. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes are substantially perpendicular to the mid-circumferential plane of the tire.

23. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes are formed at an angle with respect to the mid-circumferential plane of the tire.

24. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes each have a width of between 0.015 inches and 0.06 inches.

25. (new) The tire defined in claim 24 wherein the sipes have a width of approximately 0.03 inches.

26. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes have a zig-zag pattern.

27. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes are formed in opposed shoulder ribs of the tire.

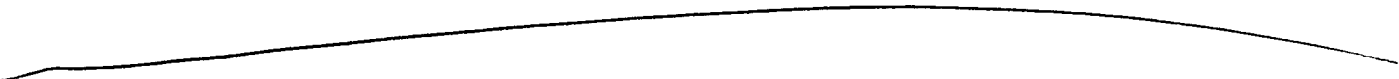
28. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes are formed in opposed intermediate ribs of the tire.

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29. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein the sipes extend partially across the lateral width of the tread blocks.

a 30. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein certain of the laterally extending grooves have a generally V-shaped configuration.

31. (new) The tire defined in claim 19 wherein a plurality of the sipes are formed in each of the tread blocks.



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